

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ISAAC JEROME CHOYCE,

Plaintiff,

No. C 07-2394 PJH (PR)

vs.

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH  
LEAVE TO AMEND**

CMO KAREN SAYLOR, M.D.; DR.  
WILLIAMS; DR. F. ALVAREZ; DR.  
BANKS; RN WANDA; RN BRIAN; LVN  
PRICE; RN JACKSON; .RN B.  
THOMPSON; RN ALEX; MTA D.  
STUBS; LVN THOMPSON; Correctional  
Officer BERK; RN JACOBS;  
Correctional Officer GUTHRIE;  
Correctional Officer KNOX; and DOES  
1-16,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, a prisoner at San Quentin State Prison, has filed a pro se civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

Venue is proper in this district because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the action occurred in this district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Standard of Review**

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may

1 be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* at  
2 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police*  
3 *Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of  
5 the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not necessary;  
6 the statement need only "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the  
7 grounds upon which it rests." *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations  
8 omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint "does not need detailed factual  
9 allegations, . . . a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his 'entitle[ment] to relief'  
10 requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a  
11 cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief  
12 above the speculative level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65  
13 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer "enough facts to state a claim for relief  
14 that is plausible on its face." *Id.* at 1986-87.<sup>1</sup>

15 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential  
16 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was  
17 violated, and (2) that the alleged deprivation was committed by a person acting under the  
18 color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

## 19 **B. Legal Claims**

### 20 **1. Injunctive relief claims**

21 Individual suits for injunctive and equitable relief from alleged unconstitutional prison  
22 conditions cannot be brought where there is a pending class action suit involving the same  
23 subject matter. *McNeil v. Guthrie*, 945 F.2d 1163, 1165 (10th Cir. 1991); *Gillespie v.*

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24  
25 <sup>1</sup> *Bell Atlantic Corp.* disapproved the "no set of facts" language in *Conley v. Gibson*,  
26 355 U.S. 41 (1957). *Conley* had stated "the accepted rule that a complaint should not be  
27 dismissed for failure to state a claim unless it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove  
28 no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief." *Id.* at 45-46. *Bell*  
*Atlantic Corp.* decided that "this famous observation has earned its retirement. The phrase is  
best forgotten as an incomplete, negative gloss on an accepted pleading standard." *Bell*  
*Atlantic Corp.*, 127 S. Ct. at 1969.

1 *Crawford*, 858 F.2d 1101, 1103 (5th Cir. 1988) (en banc). "Individual members of the class  
2 and other prisoners may assert any equitable or declaratory claims they have, but they  
3 must do so by urging further actions through the class representative and attorney,  
4 including contempt proceedings, or by intervention in the class action." *Id.*

5 A class action pending in this court, *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, No. No. C 01-1351  
6 TEH, involves the same subject matter, adequacy of medical care, as plaintiff's claim here.  
7 The exhibits attached to the complaint show that plaintiff has fairly recently raised his  
8 claims using the *Plata* mechanism, so they are known to class counsel.

9 The injunctive relief request will be dismissed because such relief can be granted  
10 only in the class action case. Plaintiff's request for a temporary restraining order or a  
11 preliminary injunction will be denied for the same reason.

## 12 **2. Damage claims**

13 As a result of surgery after he was shot, plaintiff had a colostomy bag when he  
14 entered San Quentin. He asserts that supplies such as replacment bags, rubber gloves,  
15 tape, and saline solution were often not issued to him when needed, to the point where he  
16 had to wear a paper bag at times. He asserts that defendant nurses Thompson, Brian and  
17 Wanda knew of the lack of supplies and even saw him wearing the paper bags. This is  
18 sufficient to state a claim against them for damages.

19 Plaintiff asserts that he suffered chronic pain from his wound, that it is infected and  
20 the stoma is swollen, and that correctional officers Berk, Guthre and Knox refuse to take  
21 him to the medical department. This is sufficient to state a claim for damages against  
22 them.

23 He contends that the stoma has recently changed color from pink to blackish and  
24 purple, and that there is bleeding and bulging around the opening. He contends that  
25 nevertheless defendant nurse Jacobs walked away when he asked for medical care. This  
26 is sufficient to state a claim for damages against Jacobs.

27 Plaintiff asserts that Dr. Alvarez prescribed an anti-depressant which caused him  
28 pain in his intestines, and that he does not have a mental illness. This is sufficient to state

1 a claim for damages against Alvarez.

2 The remaining defendants are not named. Plaintiff thus has failed to allege facts  
3 regarding them which would state a plausible claim for relief. The claims against them will  
4 be dismissed with leave to amend. Plaintiff should note that in order to state a plausible  
5 claim against any particular defendant he must allege the facts of the defendant's  
6 involvement in the allegedly unconstitutional actions.

### 7 CONCLUSION


8 1. For the foregoing reasons, the complaint is **DISMISSED** with leave to amend, as  
9 indicated above, within thirty days from the date of this order. The amended complaint  
10 must include the caption and civil case number used in this order and the words  
11 AMENDED COMPLAINT on the first page. Because an amended complaint completely  
12 replaces the original complaint, plaintiff must include in it all the claims he wishes to  
13 present, including those which the court has found to be cognizable above. *See Ferdik v.*  
14 *Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992). He may not incorporate material from the  
15 original complaint by reference. Failure to amend within the designated time will result in  
16 the dismissal of these claims.

17 2. To the extent plaintiff's requests injunctive relief, those claims are **DENIED** for the  
18 reasons set out above. He must seek relief through the *Plata* class action.

19 3. It is the plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the  
20 court informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper with the clerk headed  
21 "Notice of Change of Address," and must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion.  
22 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to  
23 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 Dated: October 15, 2007.

  
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PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON  
United States District Judge

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